

# WEST TEXAS COLLECTION

## Brady Aviation School, Curtis Field Collection

2.75 linear inches

**Record ID:** 1990-1

**Donor:** Wayne Spiller

**Acquisition:** Gift

**Access:** Open

**Restrictions:** Contact to publish

**Citation:** Brady Aviation School, Curtis Field Collection, West Texas Collection, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX

### Administrative/Biographical History:

Curtis Field was located in McCulloch County, TX and was named for the mayor of Brady, Harry L. Curtis, who proposed the site. Construction began in November 1940. A primary flying school was moved from Love Field in Dallas to Curtis Field. Classes began in March 1941. As many as 500 students were enrolled at one time and an estimated some 10,000 graduated there. The field was closed in August 1945. Today it is the home of the municipal airport.

### Scope and Content:

Negatives cover the period of 1944-45.

### Arrangement:

Box	File	Description
1	1	History of Curtis Field Includes 60 negatives <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Two dispatchers-on left, unidentified/right, Crawford Winfrey</li><li>2. Unidentified man, General Brandt, Harry L. Curtis, &amp; W.B. Click</li><li>3. Group of men, "waiting to fly"</li><li>4. W.B. Click &amp; Harry L. Curtis with Training Command visitors</li><li>5. People in canteen</li><li>6. Barracks</li><li>7. BT 13 (airplane) with pilot</li><li>8. Barracks A and B</li><li>9. Chow line</li><li>10. Buglers in formation</li><li>11. "Break time" (group of men)</li><li>12. Mess hall</li></ol>

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>
		13. "Study time" (group of men)
		14. "Getting ready" (pilot entering plane)
		15. Lt. Burton J. Plehal, Acting Commandant of Cadets
		16. Ground school
		17. Lt. Burton J. Plehal, Acting Commandant of Cadets, inspecting the troops
		18. Plane and Engine Lab-Bldg #1/Dept. of Ground Instruction-Bldg #2
		19. Engine crew working on plane
		20. Doctor's lab
		21. Latrine
		22. Cadets at leisure
		23. Headquarters, Air Corps Training Dept., Brady Aviation School
		24. 1st Lt. Raymond E. Lovett, Post Surgeon, with patient
		25. Ground school
		26. Mess hall kitchen and a worker
		27. Aerial view-Brady Aviation School, Curtis Field
		28. Mess hall crew
		29. Hangars, Curtis Field
		30. BT 13A (basic trainer) -ready line
		31. Mess hall (interior)
		32. J.R. Looney, control tower (class of 44F)
		33. Canteen (interior)
		34. Believed to be Instructor T.L. Page ("You start up like this.")
		35. Control Tower
		36. Recreation area
		37. Basic Trainers (airplanes)
		38. Basic Trainer (airplane)
		39. Major W.B. Click
		40. Lt. Frank R. Sinclair
		41. Capt. James L. Jackson
		42. Major Dillon
		43. Delmer Miller, Director of Flying
		44. Squadron B Commander John P. Threadgill, one of the original instructors at Love Field, shown with H.W. Behrens, last cadet to fly at Curtis Field (July 27, 1945)
		45. H.W. Behrens, last cadet to fly at Curtis Field (July 27, 1945)
		46. Lt. S. Schwartz and a secretary
		47. Ed Painter, propeller repair
		48. 48-star flag at Curtis Field (1940's)
		49. Fred A. Bryant, accountant at Curtis Field (Jan 1944)
		50. Lois Browning and Ellis Kelso
		51. Jan 18, 1944-Cadet William R. Curl was killed when plane #224 landed on top of plane #313 at Curtis Field
		52. Harry L. Curtis, Mayor of Brady, for whom Curtis Field was named
		53. Stella Jeffers

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>
		54. Women on office staff: row 1-Irma Jo Wankan, Doris McLellan/ row 2- Louise Blair, Cleta Wallace/ row 3- Carolyn Nance (Jan 1944)
		55. Engine repair crew: left, George Steel/middle, Ewell Teague/right, unidentified man
		56. Darley's Barber Shop at Curtis Field: C.P. Birden, G.O. Darley, unidentified customer, and Lightnin
		57. Cars, buildings, and beacon light
		58. Office staff, Brady Aviation (Jan 14, 1944): l-r, back row- Wilburn Bundren, Fred A. Bryant, W.A. (Gus) Shropshire/ middle row- Doris McLellan, Louise Blair, Irma Jo Wankan/ front row- Milton Haley, Freida Gibson, June Benefield, Mary Behrens
		59. Crash truck
		60. Brady, Heart of Texas welcome sign of many years, including Curtis Field days of 1940's (looking south, Evridge block-1989)